







In the last Bayonet, we asked for an Augusta snow scene to print in this winter issue. The picture above was provided by Linda Moorman Roller Livick. More winter scenes at AMA inside on page 14.

## Applications now available

## AMA Legacy Scholarship to be awarded

Children and grandchildren of AMA alumni who plan to enter a school beyond the high school level are eligible to apply for the 1997 \$1,000 AMA Legacy Scholarship.

AMA Alumni President Gary Nicholson, '70, has invited alumni to contact him for applications. "The winner of the 1997 scholarship will be announced before the May reunion, and the scholarship itself will be awarded at the reunion," said Nicholson.

The AMA Legacy Scholarship is granted annually to support directly the post secondary education for the children and grandchildren of former AMA cadets. One scholarship is awarded each year to a high school senior or high school graduate planning, for the first time, to enter college, or a recognized technical/vocational school beyond high school.

Child and grandchild include a natural, step, or legally adopted child or grandchild under the age of 25. The 1996 Scholarship winner was Albert Roy Leatherman, the grandson of **George Leatherman**, '39.

Applications may be obtained by writing to Gary Nicholson, 11971 Lexington Drive, Dunkirk, MD 20754-9263. Completed applications must be returned by March 24, 1997 to the return address on the application.

## Roller-Livick salute at 1997 Reunion

Plans are moving ahead for the planned salute to the Roller and Livick families during the 1997 AMA Alumni Reunion scheduled for May 2-3 in Staunton.

Alumni and friends of AMA are being asked to submit their favorite stories about General Charles Roller,

Colonel Tom Roller, and Colonel Mal and Linda Roller Livick. "We are also looking for photos that will help tell

Augusta's history," says Bob

In the next issue AMA'S HISTORY as related by those who know it best Bradford, '50, editor of The Bayonet. Pictures will be copied and returned. Send your photos and stories to Bob Bradford at 1325 Virginia Street, Danville, CA 94526-1241.

### Augusta Military Academy Alumni Association, Inc.

January 1997

Dear Fellow Alumnus:



One of the best ways for AMA to be remembered always is through our two scholarship programs. What could be a more fitting tribute to Augusta and all that it stood for than the guarantee that other young people will have an opportunity to get a good education.

The AMA Legacy Scholarship for 1997 will be awarded at this year's annual reunion at the Saturday night banquet May 3. The front page story in this issue explains how one gets an application for the scholarship. If you have a child or a grandchild who will be entering college for the first time, please consider having him or her apply for the AMA Legacy Scholarship. This program was put into place as a means of carrying Augusta's name and reputation far into the fast-approaching 21st Century.

Our other stipends are in the VMI Scholarship Program. These four scholarships were created to honor AMA's close association with the Virginia Military Institute, and are given annually to four VMI cadets selected by the Institute. They honor **General Roller**, of course, but they also provide an ongoing echo for Augusta's prowess as a military school with high academic standards. The VMI Scholarship Fund does not at present have adequate principal to generate the income needed to pay for this quartet of scholarships. We will need several thousand dollars more in the VMI fund to have these grants paid from earnings. If you can help, please use the envelope enclosed to make your contribution to the VMI Scholarship Fund. And Happy New Year!

K. Gary Nicholson, '70 President, AMA Alumni Association, Inc.



Newsletter of the AMA Alumni Association, Inc. P.O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101

Editor: Bob Bradford, '50 Circulation Manager: Ed Click, '50 Volume 97, **1** Mumber 1

The Bayonet is distributed to alumni and friends of the Augusta Military Academy. Notice of changes of address should be sent to Alumni Records, c/o Edwin Click, Rt. 1, Box 12, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-9703. Please provide your 9-digit ZIP code!

The Bayonet welcomes information and articles for or about AMA alumni. Share the news of promotions, awards, retirement, births, marriages, deaths, etc. Please print or type your submission.

Mail, e-mail or FAX information to:
Bob Bradford
1325 Virginia Street
Danville, CA 94526-1241
Phone 510/837-8083
FAX 510/838-0928
e-mail: AMABayonet@aol.com
or JPWF19A@Prodigy.com

### Infinite in duration...

Albert Einstein wrote, It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.

The education we received at Augusta is a precious gift, and we owe much to those who made our education possible - our families and to our AMA teachers.

De Witt Clinton called knowledge ecstatic in enjoyment,

perennial in frame, unlimited in space and infinite in duration."

On page 13, Hap Starr, '51, pays tribute to the faculty and staff at Augusta - those very dedicated people who gave their talents inside and outside the classroom to ready us for an uncertain world.

### 000000

### Want to buy a Luger?

Bill Brooks, '62, will sell you one. And he can tell you what it's like to be in the French Foreign Legion. See Spotlight on page 7.

## **Board meeting set**

The AMA Alumni Association Board of Directors will have it's regular winter meeting on Saturday, February 15 at 10 AM at the Quality Inn in New Market.

Alumni Association President Gary Nicholson, '70, said "all AMA alumni are invited to attend this and every meeting of your Board."

#### Corrections

In the November 1996 Bayonet:

- ★ The picture of Linda and Colonel Mal Livick was made in 1975 at the dedication of the new infirmary, not in 1965.
- ★ In Augusta Memories on page 11, it was Charles Oakey, '43, who received the Purple Heart during World War II while Herb McCawley, '43, was made a prisoner of war by the Germans.
- \* Also in *Memories*, it was Ray Long, '45, not the late Paul Long, '51, who reminisced about having met Jack Manch, '38.

Joseph Alexander lives in Staunton, and closely followed the events which led to the closing and sale of Augusta. He collected all the newspaper articles he could locate pertaining to AMA, and has turned them over to the AMA Alumni Association for safekeeping and preservation. We sincerely thank Joe for his foresight and determination in providing this valuable service.

#### 1935

Dick Wilson gives us the bad news that his wife, Marg, had a heart attack while on an extended cruise last year. She was taken from the ship in Puerto Vallarta and spent the next five days in a Mexican hospital. Their son-in-law, a doctor, and their daughter had Marg evacuated by plane to Tampa. There, she underwent surgery, had a second heart attack, and yet another operation. Thankfully, Marg is now doing so much better that they took another cruise to Hawaii, Tahiti, and beyond in December.

#### 1939

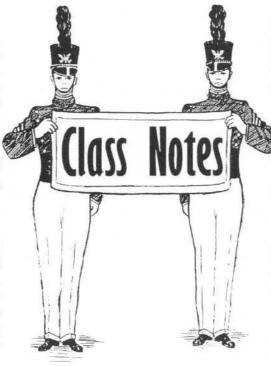
**Dr. Mel Alper** has retired after a long and distinguished career as an ophthalmologist. He has served as Chairman of the Council of Advisors for Ophthalmic Surgery to the American College of Surgery. He lives six months a year in Bermuda, and the other six months in Bethesda, MD, or travelling.

Mickey Gordon is a very active member of the Shenandoah Valley chapter of the Navy League. Mick was a Marine in World War II.

#### 1943

Bob Guggenheimer writes The Bayonet from Madrid that he looks forward to the coming visit of Hilton Roller Grasty, Colonel Tom Roller's daughter, to Spain in 1997. (See page 8)

**Dr. Robert Linstone** lives in Punta Gorda, FL and stays in touch with **John Cort, '42**, who lives in New York City. (See box at right)



Judge B. A. "Monk" Davis has a new address: 215 Barfoot West, Rocky Mount, VA 24151.

Dr. George "Boots" Solan is winding down 40 years of the practice of medicine in Stowe, OH. He has toured Europe, North Africa, South America, the South Pacific, and Asia. "I do some hunting in the virgin forests of West Virginia, play with my grandchildren, and with my grandchildren's grandmother!"

#### 1944

Turner Dozier has sent a column he wrote for the Norfolk Ledger-Star in

Earl Cabaniss "wiped up the ring"

with classmate Bob Linstone in '43

**Dr. Robert (Bob) Linstone** remembers well when his friend **Earl Cabaniss** flattened him in a boxing match in 1943, their senior year at AMA.

Bob tells the story: "Earl was Captain of CW Company and I was Captain of A Company. It was custom to have the captains of each company square off against each other for a three-round boxing match. It was the longest nine minutes of my entire life!

Earl was tall, lean, and knew how to box. I was short, and scared to death. John Cort, '42, was Captain of the Band and of the boxing team. He coached me, but it did not work. Earl was great, and he wiped up the ring with me!"

April of 1963 after the Big Boy's death. Excerpts will be reproduced in the next *Bayonet*. Turner was a newspaper sports and news editor for 43 years before he retired in 1992.

1945

Jimmy Pigg and Nell live in Shalimar, FL. After retiring from the Army in 1982 as a full colonel, Jim managed a resort condo until 1993. He attended West Point.

Don Browne has retired from PPG after 31 years, and as loan officer for a credit union after 35 years. He and Carolyn sold their home in West Virginia and moved to Maryville, TN last December. Their daughter is a school teacher in Maryville, and their son is a lieutenant colonel in the Army, currently attending the War College in Washington, DC. Don and Carolyn will celebrate their 48th anniversary in March.

Frank Hawkins, Jr. is still flying sailplanes at age seventy. Frank, who lives in Elkins, NC, has been a member of the Sierra Club for the last 18 years.

Dave Brewer had his old Louisville, KY golf group down to Pawleys Island, SC for a week of golf last September. He and Barbara recently went to Menlo Park, CA to visit their oldest daughter and her family.

#### 1946

Paul Gerard Moerschell lives at 609 Meadows Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23462-4606.

#### 1947

**Dr. Tom Callaghan** is a psychiatrist in private practice in Fresno, CA.

Harry May says he is "90 per cent recovered from knee replacement surgery, but still in rehab." He also reports that he and Jane have just become great-grandparents! Antonio was born 23 October. "We are much too young to be great-grandparents, but what can you do about it, except enjoy?"



Frank Williamson, '60, sent this picture of the mini-reunion he had at his home in Richmond. L. to r., Frank and Bev Williamson, Byrd Newton, '60, and Mary Sue, of Kinsale, VA, and Jim Cunningham, '62, and Jody, of Kyle, TX. They found each other through *The Bayonet*.

#### 1948

Bill Aldrich heads a development group in Houston working on a product to replace wooden railroad crossties. "Many have tried to invent such a product without success. We will know within the next six months if we have succeeded." Bill says that he and Natalie are in reasonably good health though Bill has had a rare form of MS for the last 15 years. Son Jeff is a geologist and lives in Jakarta, Indonesia. Daughter Amy lives in Charlotte, NC.

Richard McLaughlin is completing the sale of his home on Long Island, and the purchase of his new home in Staunton. He has a major goal when he moves back to God's country: renewing his campaign for a lifesize statue of Woodrow Wilson at the Staunton birthplace of the 28th President. But before he leaves the Empire State, Richard is hosting a young girl from Trinidad who was flown to New York for life-or-death heart surgery. The patient and her mother will be Richard's guests on Long Island until the daughter is well enough to return to Trinidad.

#### 1949

**Bill Dickinson** spent Thanksgiving in Nashville with friends. Family and

friends attended the Army-Navy game in Philadelphia. Bill's wife, Nancy, had gall bladder surgery in the fall, and, thankfully, has recovered fully. new e-mail address: wdickin@pa.net

#### 1950

Reverend Jim Lupton is pastor of St. Albans Episcopal Church in Stuttgart, AR. He plans to retire 1 May and will move back home to eastern North Carolina. He visited Turkey in November.

Fred Shappee did R&D work for Sealright Corporation for 33 years before retiring. He and his wife are in Florida for the winter. The Shappees live in Minetto, NY.

Mack Saunders and his wife of 45 years, Ruth, have owned and managed Saunders Properties in Suffolk, VA for the last 40 years. "Ruth is my business partner and my very best friend. We have a son, a daughter, and five grandchildren, aged 6 to 16. They all live nearby where we can enjoy being with them often."

1953

Cole Sandridge has the good news that the Virginia State Highway Department may not take his new retirement home after all. A new Route 29 bypass around Charlottesville threatened to do just that, but Cole now says, "the road apparently will go through the other end of our subdivision." He and Roy Ann vacationed in Myrtle Beach and Savannah in October.

Oswald "Coyote" Ferro recently returned from the

inaugural cruise of Carnivals Destiny, the biggest cruise ship in the world. While in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, he got together with **Hap Starr, '51**. (See picture below) Coyote retired in December as Project Manager of Dade County, FL Public Works.

Lew Mundin recently had dinner in Richmond with Terry Duval, '53. They had a long phone conversation with Manuel Balbis, '53, who was at home in Miami.

Al Wattay and Diane report that they played golf on Christmas Day with their children at their new home at Hilton Head. Al was an American airlines pilot before his retirement early last year.



Oswald "Coyote" Ferro, '53, visits Hap Starr, '51, in Hap's home port, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

#### 1954

Ken Hoke has retired as Director of Information Systems at Guilford of Maine, and he and Ellie have moved back to Elon College, NC, where he is making extensive repairs to their home there. "We recently spent a month in Africa, visiting our daughter and granddaughter, and we'll go back to Africa early this year for the birth of a grandson. Before we go, I am caning a rocking horse for my granddaughter, playing golf when I can, and teaching a woodworking class at the local technical institute."

#### 1955

Bill Johnson is back farming after heart surgery last February. "I'm doing fine now." Daughter Martha Margaret is in med school at East Carolina, and son Bill, Jr. runs a landscape business in Raleigh.

#### 1956

Albert "Buddy" Krise has recovered from hip replacement surgery. He and Sandra live in Norfolk.

#### 1958

A. Lynch Ward sends his address. phone number, and e-mail address: 2936 Rivermont Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24503. 804/847-4622. e-mail at: bargara@inmind.com

#### 1959

David Fechheimer sent a generous contribution of \$100 to support the publication and distribution of The Bayonet. He has lived in San Francisco for the last 30 years, and he and his wife have two teenage sons. He also located two "missing" cadets from the Class of '59: Lyle "Bucky" Barber of Charleston, WV, and James Hunter, Jr. of Asheville. NC. Thank you, David!

Elliott Ridge writes from Hillsville in Southwest Virginia that he is doing substitute teaching in Carroll County. He and Hope are now doing fine.

Henry "Tex" Wainwright, III lives in Highland, MD where he operates Freestone Petroleum. "I have three beautiful married daughters and one handsome son," says Tex. He is a scuba diver, underwater photographer, and a duck stamp collector. In 1992, he was named the Tree Farmer of the Year in Maryland, Tex's e-mail address: hrwfpc@aol.com

#### 1960

Jim Holtman and Joyce have been married for 34 years. They dated while Jim was at AMA, and they now have two children. 29 and 33, and two granddaughters. Jim is an associate designer for Norfolk Southern, and in 1996 received his master certification in scuba diving. The Holtmans live in New Castle, just outside Roanoke.

George Holt recently lost his father, 84-yearold Frank Holt. Founder and Chairman of the Board of Holt Manufacturing in Burlington, NC. We were sorry to hear about your Dad's passing, George.



In 1952, a B-29 crashed into a glacier near the bed and breakfast inn in Wasilla, AK, owned by Harvey Bowers, '69. With a hot summer in 1996, the bomber was exposed, together with flight books and personnel gear, all well preserved. Above, Harvey at the crash site. Below, a giant B-29 prop emerges from the ice.



#### 1962

Bob Ridgeway is Fire Chief for the City of Gastonia, NC, after having served in the same position in Cape Girardeau, MO and Cape Cod, MA. He also served 20 years in the Prince Georges County, MD fire department. Bob has authored more than 20 professional articles on fire service. and, along the way, received both bachelor and master degrees from the University of Maryland. He served in Vietnam in the Marine Corps.

#### 1963

Carl Riedell recently was elected Chairman of the Water Commission for Osterville, MA. His plumbing and heating business has been expanded to include water treatment and fuel oil delivery. He loves salt water fishing.

"It would be great to have some AMA classmates come up to Cape Cod and go fishing."

Bob Hume owns and operates Travel Mates, a motorcoach company, in Harrisonburg. They provide transportation for the VMI basketball team and band. Bob has just been re-elected to the board of the United Motorcoach Association. After graduating from AMA, Bob served for a while on the Augusta faculty staff.

David Raybin checks in from Nashville where he has been a trial lawyer for the past quarter century. "I am happily married with two great kids. My brother, Paul Raybin, '69, still lives in Staunton." e-mail at: DRaybin@aol.com

Charles Woodard, II is chief investigator for Lashley Investigations in Columbus, OH. He has retired from the Columbus Division of Police, and he and Lynn are moving into what he proclaims to be "our last house" in Powell, OH. Son Trey graduated from Florida State where he is now working on his Masters. Charles' e-mail address: Lashlev@J-MAC.com

#### 1965

Ben Beard is Assistant US Attorney in Pensacola, FL. Ben and Polly have three children: Amy will graduate from Auburn in elementary education this coming June, having made the Dean's List in the winter quarter; Ben, Jr. is finishing his freshman year at Auburn where he received a full scholarship for having had the highest grade point average on a college soccer team; and Suzanne, 11, will train in long distance running for a slot in the Florida Junior Olympics in July.

#### 1967

Mac McInnis is working to get his classmates back for their 30th class reunion this coming May. e-mail at cjmci@pipeline.com

#### 1969

Victor Gomez is an account representative for Cleartel Communications, a long distance company based in Washington, DC. Victor lives in Alexandria, VA. After AMA, he graduated in hotel management and returned home to the Dominican Republic where he was resident manager of a beach resort. e-mail: vgomez@cgxtelecom.com

Nick Syropoulos reports in on his blossoming acting career. He will appear in Absolute Power with Clint Eastwood, and in Washington Square with Albert Finney. He will also be in two episodes of Homicide - Life on the Street, a Friday night detective show on CBS. In the seventh episode of Homicide, Nick will be a pretzel vendor, and in the tenth segment, Nicky plays a correction officer who helps cut down an inmate who had hanged himself. Whether any experiences he had while he was attending Augusta prepared him for

these performances has not been revealed.

Bruce Orenstein is a criminal justice consultant on a part time basis, while he works full time at the American Correctional Association in Lanham, MD. Daughter Kendal is attending Rutgers University. e-mail addresses: bruceo@aca.org (work), or bruceo@erols.com (home).

#### 1971

Mark Femrite lives in Blacksburg, VA with his wife of seven years, Sherri. Mark is a self-employed insurance agent; Sherri is a 20-year employee of the Veterans Administration. There are four teens in the Femrite household: Kyle, 17, who finishes high school in June; Beth and Cameron, both 15, who think boys are "great;" and Jacob, 13, who Mark describes as being "just full of ideas!"

Willis Walker is home in Portsmouth recovering from a slight stroke he suffered on 27 December. Get well quickly, Willis!

#### 1972

Rick Ellet writes from Moneta, VA, in Bedford County, that he sees Louie Kennett, '72, Mark Femrite, '71, and Stride Coleman, '71, often.

#### 1975

John Walker II has lived in Chesapeake, VA for the last ten years. He and Cristy have two daughters, Lindsay, age 13, and Loren, 11. He is a millwright in Newport News.

#### 1976

Frank Harris is a computer scientist working for the Navy, teaching and developing computer programming, networking, operating systems and maintenance. He also has a consulting business on the side. He spent ten years on active duty in the Navy, and currently is a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve. (Editor's note: The November Bayonet had Frank in the Air Force. Sorry!) Frank has two children in the Baltimore area, and he plans to remarry in May. He now lives in Virginia Beach.

#### 1979

Ed Iskow and his wife, Cyndy, had their second child back in August. Joseph weighed in at 11 pounds 4 ounces! Ed still operates Support Enterprises, an aviation equipment service company. He has seen both Steve Williamson, '79, and Doug Colburn, '78, after having tracked them down through The Bayonet. Ed says, "I'll be at the 1997 Reunion!" e-mail address: Elskow@aol.com

#### 1983

Chris Meek has graduated from the University at Stony Brook, NY with a masters in education. He is varsity basketball coach at an alternative school in the New York City school system. Chris also is special internet columnist for a newsletter dedicated to teachers on Staten Island. Chris is looking for Joe Newman, from the last class at Augusta. Chris' new home address: 349B Jefferson Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10306. e-mail: sooner@admin.con2.com

#### 1985

Scott Cole is a radioman second class in the US Navy, assigned to the USS Blue Ridge, homeported in Japan. He hopes to hear early this year if he has been accepted in a commissioning program. He has married a Japanese girl, and his Dad visited him in Japan this past Thanksgiving. Scott's new e-mail address: coles@blue-ridge.navy.mil



WHO IS THE CADET REPORTING TO COLONEL LOUISELL? (This photo appeared in the November Bayonet.) Two alumni identify him as Leonard Schabdach, who played football at AMA in 1950. Thanks to Hap Starr, '51 and John Carter, '53.

# SPOTLIGHT on BILL BROOKS, 62

High school history teacher. High school librarian. Convention director. The French Foreign Legion.

If that sounds like a strange combination of careers, read on. For **Bill Brooks**, **'62**, can claim each of those careers, plus a tour in Vietnam with the 82nd Airborne.

The story begins many years back. Four of Bill's uncles had attended Augusta, and Bill beseeched his parents to let him become an AMA man also. He arrived in Fort Defiance, and before graduating five years later, he served on the Honor Committee, marched with the Roller Rifles, competed on the swim team, and was the Battalion Sergeant Major.

#### West Point disappointment

He had his heart set on West Point, and obtained an appointment from Senator Robert Byrd from his homestate West Virginia. One of his duties as sergeant major was the daily firing of the retreat cannon which led to a punctured ear drum, and that, coupled with a so-so grade on his entrance exams, knocked him out of his appointment.

He applied to VMI and The Citadel, with Colonel Roller writing a letter in his behalf to the South Carolina school. He was admitted to The Citadel, but found out after a quarter that this was not his cup of tea. Bill enlisted in the Army, and went to Jump School at Fort Benning, after which he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne. After a brief tour in the Dominican Republic, he was sent to Vietnam for a two year tour on TDY to the Air Force as a radio/telephone operator.

#### "Vinegar in my blood"

Discharged in 1966, he decided to get serious about college, and enrolled at East Carolina where he earned a BS in history in 1970. For a year-and-a-half, he taught history in a North Carolina high school, "but there was too much vinegar in my blood. I needed to do something else at that point in my life." Bill wanted to go back into the Army, but the post-Vietnam cuts were in effect. He also tried the Marines without success.

In late 1971, he got all his money together and left for France. In Paris, he met some friends who agreed to

bring some of his luggage back to the States. In January of 1972, William M. Brooks, Jr. of Parkersburg, WV, AMA Class of 1962, journeyed from Paris to Aubagne, and joined the French Foreign Legion. He was assigned to 1ere Rgt. Etangere de Cavalerie - the 1st Foreign Cavalry Regiment.

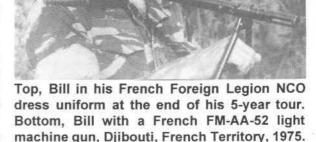
#### The Foreign Legion

"One of the world's most colorful and gallant fighting forces..." That's how the Encyclopedia Americana describes the French Foreign Legion. Most Legionnaires come from countries other than France. An atmosphere of mystery, glamour and romance surrounds it. Some men join to escape political persecution in their homelands, and others to seek an adventure. Bill had served in Vietnam, but it did not prepare him for the Legion.

"The Legion is a poor outfit," Bill says. "It is completely different from the U.S. Army - a world in itself. All our uniforms and equipment were 'handme-downs,' even our shoes were second-hand. We had one good uniform which we put on when the brass came to inspect, but the other clothing was pretty ratty."

When one joins the Legion, he gives up five years of his life. "That is the

minimum enlistment period," according to Bill. After training in France, he first went to Corsica. He was given a choice of assignments, including Tahiti, "but you can't be in the Legion and not serve in the desert." So, he was assigned to Djibouti, the Massachusetts-sized possession of France in a remote corner of northeast Africa (the former French Somaliland) known mainly for



its evil climate and its strategic location near the Suez Canal.

"For infractions of the rules, you get locked up in the company toll, or jail. Some tolls are just hell," Bill remembers. "American standards of hygiene didn't exist in Djibouti. Dogs roamed through the mess hall, there were no toilet facilities in beer halls... everything, including you, is washed in cold water...

#### Looking for deserters

"The infantry is tough, physical...
marches day and night, and lots of
shooting. If you told a Legionnaire he
had to memorize his rifle number or
the General Orders, he'd tell you to go
to hell.

"We spent lots of time on frontier patrols, looking for deserters. You really got tired of looking at the same faces and the same rocks day after

day... We had 20-year-old lieutenants commanding 4 5 - y e a r - o I d privates, and 45-year-old lieutenants commanding 20-year-old privates. We had men who had been in the Legion for 25 years, and who never made it past the rank of private."

While in Djibouti, Bill began shipping home cartons of old uniforms, badges, insignia, and the like. His mother had twenty boxes of militaria when his enlistment ended in 1977.

#### Soldier of Fortune

Returning to North Carolina, Bill took a job as

a high school librarian, quite a change from his Legion days. He wrote his memoirs which were published in serial form in *Soldier of Fortune* magazine, and he was invited to the publication's annual convention. There, he met people interested in militaria, and added to his knowledge about the things that collectors wanted.

Bill had some ideas to make future conventions better, and the magazine offered him a job as convention director. Married now, he and Kay moved to the Soldier of Fortune home office in Boulder, CO. After two years in the Colorado winters, Bill convinced the magazine that he could do his job as well back in North Carolina. Bill, Kay and his new baby, Heidi, moved to Wilmington in 1984 and remained there until Kay's family moved to Montgomery, AL in 1988. Bill and his family soon followed.

#### Working for himself

In 1990, Soldier of Fortune decided they wanted their convention director back at headquarters in Colorado. Bill decided that he didn't want to go, and thus began a new phase in his life. Should he teach? Should he work in a library? Or should he work for himself?

He had started a collection of things military when he was in the Legion, and the twenty boxes he sent home from Africa were still around. Bill got a collector's license, and went into business as "Bill Brooks Arms and Militaria."

"I deal in military weapons, mostly things made before 1945, though I do have some things from Korea and



Bill Brooks in Wilmington, NC with his collection of German K98k Mausers, 1984.

Vietnam. I have many sources and usually can find something someone else wants or needs."

Bill's local ads in Montgomery state that he has an inventory of flight helmets, flight jackets, camouflage items, insignias, swords, unit flags, guidons, medals, patches, military guns, and unit histories.

Bill Brooks has had several lifetimes of experiences in his 52 years. An AMA cadet, following in the footsteps of a quartet of uncles. Albeit briefly, a cadet at the Citadel. A high school history teacher. A librarian. A military arms collector and dealer. An American paratrooper in Vietnam. And a member of the French Foreign Legion for five unforgettable years.

Heidi is now 14-years-old. Recently, it snowed in Montgomery, and she hoped that school would be closed the next day. Bill and Kay are active in their church, and Bill stays very busy, particularly on weekends, in the business which likely had its genesis in that Augusta Military Academy retreat cannon that perforated Bill's ear drum back in 1962, and which seemed to have ended forever his dreams of a military career.

## Faculty Facts

Robert S. Hart underwent triple bypass surgery last November. He is recovering successfully at home.

Paul Hoover remains at home in Lancaster, PA, eager to hear from his old cadets. Address: 436 West Chestnut, Lancaster, PA 17603-3406.

## Hilton Roller Grasty injured in accident

Hilton Roller Grasty, daughter of Colonel Tom Roller, narrowly escaped death or serious injury in late December when she was rear-ended by a tractor-trailer while on her way to Fort Defiance to place a Christmas wreath on her parents' graves.

Just five miles from her home in Charlottesville, a semi roared up behind Hilton's station wagon, crashed into the rear of the car, and sent it across two lanes of traffic into the median. The rear hatch door of the wagon was driven forward, coming to rest just behind the driver's seat.

"My neck was broken," Hilton says, "but fortunately there was no damage to my spinal cord." After a night in a Charlottesville hospital, Hilton went home, encased in an uncomfortable neck brace which she would have to endure for eight weeks, or more. The car was totalled.

"I remember an awful jolt, and that terrible sound of metal upon metal. I am very lucky to be alive," she says. If all goes well, she still plans to take her annual trip to Spain, returning in time for the May reunion when her father will be honored.





Please report deaths and illnesses of AMA Alumni to the AMA Chaplain, Bill Gray, '37. 5111 - 8th Road, South, #107 Arlington, VA 22204-2817 Phone: 703/820-4781

Ralph Waldo Holsinger, '26

6 March 1996, at Heritage Hall Nursing Home, Richmond, after a long illness, age 89. Attended University of Virginia. Was professional photographer in Charlottesville. Former Chairman of State Board of Photographer Examiners. President of Virginia Professional Photographers Association. Survived by his wife, Helen: a son, Ralph W. Holsinger of Roanoke; and two grandsons.

Edward Lindsay Dorrier, '26 May 1996, in Scottsville, VA, where he had lived all his life. Survived by his wife of 53 years.

Albert C. Wagner, '36 15 June 1996.

Gus M. Heilman, '36

29 November 1996, at University Medical Center, Charlottesville, at age 79. University of Virginia, '52, where he played football and basketball. Cofounder, Cavalier Bar and Grill on the University Corner. Left college in 1941 to enter U.S. Army; one of first Allied troops to enter Rome; wounded in action in Germany: Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. Survived by four children; Ty of Crozet, VA; Sally Brown of McGaheysville, VA; Mary Jane Wilfong of San Diego, CA; and Nancy Massie of Lowesville, VA; and eight grandchildren.

Jack A. Moulton, '38 November 1994 in Winston-Salem, NC. His widow died November 1996.

**Dorothy Mikules** 12 December 1996. Wife of Mike Mikules, '38.

George P. Furber, '42

Of an auto accident this past summer, in Houston, TX.

James L. "Jimmy" Lea, Jr., '46 4 November 1996, at Norfolk, age 67. Former owner, Fishback and Lea, Limited. Born in Norfolk, attended AMA for five years. Survived by three daughters, Hampton Gray Lea of Norfolk: Page Lea Mathews and Katherine Lea Alexander, both of Virginia Beach; a son, James Lea III of Charlotte, NC; his sister, Mary Martha Lea Thedieck of Richmond; and eight grandchildren.

Dr. Paul G. Moerschell, Jr., '46 26 December 1996, in a Norfolk hospital, age 68. Norfolk native; practiced dentistry in Great Bridge, VA. Ordain-Bayside Presbyterian elder. Church; life master, Contract Bridge League. Attended William and Mary and University of Virginia. Service in U.S. Air Force. Survived by his wife, Constance; two daughters, Pamela Jerothe of New Jersey and Patricia McCormack of Richmond; two sons, Dr. Paul Moerschell, III and Philip Moerschell, both of Great Bridge; a sister, Margaret Panella of Boca Raton, FL; and seven grandchildren.

Frank J. Quattrone, '47

21 June 1996. Resident of Steubenville, OH when he attended Augusta. Master sergeant, staff; football.

John F. Dudley, '69 21 April 1996, Wilmington, NC.

Stephen Mark Spigle, '74

5 August 1996, at home, Roanoke, from complications of diabetes, age 40. Worked for Silver Enterprises for many years. Survived by two daughters. Meghan and Rebecca Spigle; a son, William; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Spigle of Roanoke; two sisters. Mrs. Michelle Higginbotham, Winchester, and Katey Spigle, Roanoke; a brother, David, of Fincastle.

#### Earnest M. James

24 June 1996, at Harrisonburg. homicide. The house father of "J" Barracks in the '70's; taught several vears in the Junior School.



Looking for a lost roommate, or an AMA cap? Look here! If you can help, contact Ed Click, P.O. Box 101, Fort Defiance, VA 24437-0101. 540/248-0507.

Searching: for my roommates Bill Woy from West Virginia, and Chuck Craft from Clifton Forge, Jim Holtman, '60

Wanted: Will buy VWVII swords, helmets, daggers, uniforms, Lugers, and other militaria. Ernest Burt, '45

Wanted: Recalls from 1914, 1921, 1927, 1932, 1954, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, and from before 1914. Also, does anyone have the full roster for 1983? I want to copy the rosters, and will return the Recalls to the senders. Ed Click, '50

Searching: for my roommate Eugene Green from Norfolk. Frank Hawkins, '45

Wanted: pictures taken at Augusta in '69 and '70. I was a quitar player and many photos were taken of me. Doug McMullan, '70

Wanted: Will purchase any of the following: 1958 Recall; Roller Rifles shoulder patch; Rollers Rifles fourragere (red shoulder cord); AMA shoulder patch; pictures of 1958 Roller Rifles. Lynch Ward, III, '58

Searching: for my Headquarters Company roomates: R.T. "Radar" Phillips, Wayne "Pumping Iron" Blaylock, Cabiness, and Spillan. Henry "Tex" Wainwright, III, '59

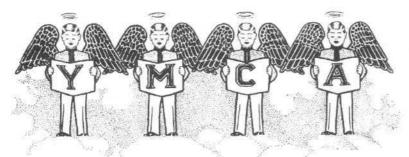
Searching: for James "Rich" Newman, whose mother lived in Staunton and whose Dad was a Marine, stationed at Quantico. Frank Williamson, '60

## How do you remember the YMCA?

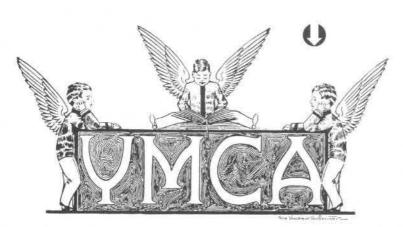
How do you remember the YMCA at Augusta? Until the late 50's, Maggie Belle Roller Robinson presided at the piano, leading cadets through many Sunday night choruses of *Brighten the Corner Where You Are*. If you are from another era, your memories doubtless differ.

But likely you did not have the romantic notions about the Y that prevailed eighty years ago. Depicted here are art works from the 1913-1918 Recalls, before and during World War One. Cadets in the YMCA were depicted by the artists as angelic beings, though their precise place in the celestial hierarchy apparently was not assigned.

Is this how you remember the "Y" at Augusta?

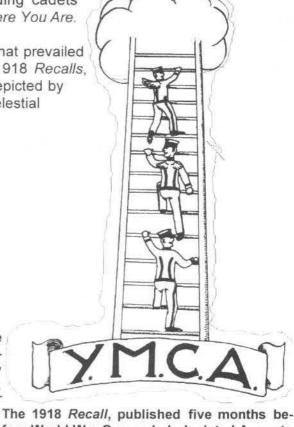


Eighty-four years ago, the 1913 Recall carried this artwork at the top of the page dedicated to the Young Men's Christian Association, better known as the YMCA. Halo endowed cadets, fully winged and clad in white ducks, raise heavenly voices in song.



In 1914 and 1915, the Recall used this picture, which resembles a woodcut. The art bears the name of the artist: Anne Woodrow VanDevanter. Who was Ms. VanDevanter?

Do you have a special memory of the YMCA meetings at Augusta? Or perhaps you did not attend the "Y" meetings because of your religious beliefs. Send us your recollections of AMA's YMCA meetings, or the activities in which you engaged if you didn't go to Y.



The 1918 Recall, published five months before World War One ended, depicted Augusta cadets climbing a ladder heavenward. The cadet on the bottom rung is wingless; the next cadet has begun to sprout his wings; and the cadet nearest heaven is ready to become a full-fledged cherub.



In 1916 and 1917, the wings and halos were gone. The white ducks (symbolizing purity?) remained. The United States entered World War One in April of 1917, barely two months before the Class of '17 graduated at Augusta.

Dr. George Solan, '43, recalls that he ran into Dudley Jones at the New London Submarine base during World War II. "Dudley's Dad was chaplain at the base, and Major Roller would have him say grace when he visited AMA... The Major called me to his office one day, and I was really sweating. It turns out that he wanted me to take his niece from Verona to an upcoming dance. She was a great date."

Turner Dozier, '44, says that he won a \$250 War Bond for writing as essay on "What It Means to be a True American." "Major Roller summoned me to his office late one night to tell me I had won, and asked me to read my essay to him. I was to read it later to the Cadet Corps at assembly, and he wanted to be sure that I did it his way!"

Frank Hawkins, Jr., '45, worked in the AMA infirmary with Mother Mac. "How we all loved that sweet lady. We had a terrible outbreak of scarlet fever, and I brought food from the cafeteria three times a day over ice covered steps to the sick boys in the infirmary... I got my pilot's license while at AMA... and some of us were sent to Fort Meade for two weeks of army training near the end of World War II..."

Bob Sayre, '51, wonders if anyone remembers "the cadets who caught the white turkey in the field behind the school, and cooked it that night on a GI stove in a third stoop room? Of course, they got caught! The stove was confiscated and stored in the OD room under the archway. Weeks later, the stove vanished and was never seen again (at least, at the school)."

Duncan Wong, '52, asks who recalls "when lightning struck the wooden flagpole on the tower one stormy evening? The following moming, I picked up a sliver from the flagpole... and I still have it, together with a pack of Camel cigarettes placed where I sat for the Company Banquet my senior year. And I didn't even smoke! I've kept all these remembrances, and more."

Frank Williamson, '60, recalls, "We lived in CW Barracks, 393 A & B. You had to enter A to get into B. Ed Trott and the late Mike Harlow lived in A; Bob White, Bob Gevrekian, Rich Newman and I all lived in B. Newman was one of the funniest guys you'll ever encounter, and we have lost touch with him..."

Robert "Bob" Ridgeway, '62, says: "In early October of '96, I drove down through the Shenandoah Valley for the first time in many years. I could not resist the urge to leave I-81. I parked in the Old Stone Church lot, then spent an hour wandering through AMA. Boy, did it bring back memories! Everything looked much the same as it did that day in June of 1962 when I graduated after seven years at Augusta. I went up to my old room (307), and thought of my old roommate George Hudnall..."

Wayne Higgins, '63, was captain of the rifle team. "I was on the range one day, and Jesse James Porter, '63, was scoping my target, some 50 feet away. Jesse said, 'Wayne, there's a fly on your target. Can you see it?' I could, and I carefully squeezed off a round. Jesse pulled in the target, and where the fly had been, there was a .22 hole, and a bit of blood. 'You got that fly at fifty feet!', Jesse exclaimed. I still have the target, and Jesse is my witness. And who could disbelieve a guy named Jesse James?"

Jorge Rovirosa, '70, remembers "that early June day on the blacktop after graduation as we listened to Auld Lang Syne, and heard Colonel Livick repeat General Roller's sentiments: 'Tonight, the sun will set on an empty barracks, but each of you will always be a part of AMA, and AMA of you...'"

John Walker, II, '75, says it was "the spring of 1972. My brother Willis Walker, '71, was in the color guard, and it was time to try out for next year. I found myself carrying the American flag with Willis drilling the guard. Never in my life have I felt the pride and respect for another human being as I did for my brother that day... Willis was a loyal cadet for nine years, and since the school closed, his loyalty has been demonstrated by his contributions and his concern for former cadets..."

Chris Meek, '84, while on summer break from his teaching position in New York last year, attended a wedding in Staunton, and, of course, visited Augusta. "My heart still sinks when I think that nothing could have been done to save our alma mater. AMA saved me from a life not unlike that of many students I have today. I use my experiences from AMA every day in my classes in relating to students and to fellow faculty members. I learned in the AMA Military Science and Tactics course that leadership is the art of influencing people to accomplish a given task. It has been 18 years since I memorized that in Sergeant Halsell's LD-1 class, but I have never forgotten it..."



### Give your money to the AMA Alumni Association scholarship funds.... ...or give it to this guy

You can get a 1997 tax deduction for your contribution to either of the AMA Alumni Association scholarship funds!

You send it to Fort Defiance, or you send it to Washington - and to your state capital. Contributions to your alumni association scholarships are tax deductible both on your federal and your state tax returns.

The AMA Alumni Association needs your help to fund both the VMI Scholarships and the AMA Legacy Scholarship programs.

Use the enclosed envelope TODAY to send your tax deductible contribution to your AMA Alumni Association. Honor a friend - or give in memory of someone who influenced your life.

Send your money to Fort Defiance NOW - or send it to Washington next April.



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## Hap Starr, '51, salutes Augusta's teachers



ince the beginning of time, any teacher worthy of that title has had a more profound effect on his stu-

dents than most of them would have cared to admit during their formative years. In public schools and at AMA, their function of turning children into viable young adults is immeasurable.

An otherwise tragic figure in Sherwood Anderson's Winesburg, Ohio is described as "caressing" his students... touching them in an intellectual way as well as actually, so as to draw out the best in them. The usage of the word "caress" has its roots in the English language going back to Elizabethan times, and meant a particular fondness or high esteem. In these days when physical touching by a

teacher or student would not be tolerated, our teachers at AMA often gave us a hug about the shoulders, or a pat on the back, and sent us on our way, encouraged to do better.

#### Outside the classroom

The commitment of our faculty went beyond those day-to-day forays into our minds in the classrooms. Those who meant the most were fine teachers first, then worthy contributors to our lives outside the classroom.

One recalls, often with a smile, a tall, gruff sounding World War I veteran, not given to open displays of warmth, standing at the blackboard in his AMA classroom drawing solid geometry figures. Those cones, pyramids, cylinders - all of it being done with the genius of a true artist - a Michelangelo with slate and chalk and you knew he loved it.

Another, a man capable of towering rage, spent all his waking hours, every day of the year, willing to tutor, teach, and coach sports. He would rage at us, curse at us, but never insult us on a baser level. Helping to turn boys into men consumed his life. His vacations away from AMA were recruiting trips, teaching at AMA's summer camp, and, often, taking a carload of kids on trips during spring breaks.



hose of us who found ourselves in Colonel Deane's best graces cannot forget his caress - his memorable

cackling laugh accompanied by a slap on the back that sent you reeling!

Yet, one wonders why a mean character in Anderson's novel would object to so innocuous a gesture as the tousling of his child's hair. It became clear with reading that the

"...our successes in life, whether modest or grand. have fundamental roots in their work; our faculty and staff at Augusta."

father did not so much object to the teacher's way of plumbing the depths of the child's mind as he did to the teacher's becoming too important a figure in his life.

Our parents were more enlightened than that boy's father. For whatever reasons we found ourselves at AMA, our parents understood that it was necessary to cut that particular tie that binds and give us into the care of people who, in most cases, they had never seen or heard of. We may have thought that we achieved an heroic feat by managing to stay at AMA for one, two, three or more years; that we were men of the world yet objectively the spark that was our first nudge toward manhood was the result of unusual courage on the part of our parents, and when we were graduated, lurching forward into a more practical manhood, the vast majority of us were better for it. Despite fits and starts on our part, AMA's faculty and staff assumed the task of becoming our parent's surrogates.

#### All of us begin to dream

Anderson wrote: "With the boys of his school, Adolph Myers had walked in the evening or had sat talking until dusk upon the steps, lost in a kind of dream. As he talked, his voice became soft and musical. There was a caress in that also. In a way, the voice and the hands... were part of the schoolmaster's effort to carry a dream into the young minds." Later, "Under the caress... doubt and disbelief went out of the minds of the boys, and they began also to dream."

As adults, we remember experiences we describe as having been touching, poignant, precious... caressing if you will. At some point, all of us

must have begun to dream.

As youth, we would not have described our sense of what transient value good teachers have in such ways as we do now. We are older, mature, more articulate, yet our successes in life, whether modest or grand, have fundamental roots in their work; our faculty and staff at Augusta. Any of us who claim to be self made men,

that we did it all by ourselves, practices the highest form of delusion.

We could not wait for the day when we would walk onto the stage in the gymnasium, receive our diploma, and say goodbye to our school. Who among us did not swear that he never wanted to see that place again? We were naive. We knew no better. We had reached the first of many way stations in what we believed to be maturity, and AMA became a part of the past.

The next important phase is presented eloquently toward the end of Anderson's book where he speaks of a coming awareness. "There is a time in the life of every boy when he for the first time takes a backward view of life. Perhaps that is the moment when he crosses the line into manhood. The boy is walking through the street of his town. He is thinking of the future and of the figure he will cut in it. Ambitions and regrets awake within him. Suddenly something happens: he steps under a tree and waits for a voice calling his name."

Our call came sooner or later after we left Augusta, but, like Winesburg to Anderson's young hero, AMA "...had disappeared and his life there became but a background on which to paint the dreams of his manhood."

## Winter comes to Fort Defiance





Winter at Augusta was always special, even with its inconveniences and Sunday parades through the snow. Above, left, a Sunday parade around the Clay Bowl in the '60's; above, right, a weak winter sun tries to peak through snowy skies as a horse-drawn sledge clears the road, 1947; lower, left, snow or no snow, the Sunday Dress Parade went on (this picture provided by Rodgers Huff, '50).

## VMI Scholarships need funding

The Virginia Military Institute Scholarship Fund, created by the AMA Alumni Association to honor Augusta's close ties to VMI, is underfunded and in need of contributions to sustain the present program.

Alumni Association Treasurer **Ed Click**, **'50**, said, "We need several thousand dollars in the VMI fund to have these grants paid for by earnings." Four \$500 scholarships are granted each year to cadets chosen by the Institute. The scholarships are funded from the interest earned on the principal in the fund.

President Gary Nicholson, '70, used his President's Letter in this issue (page 2) to ask for support. "These scholarships honor General Roller, of course, but they also provide an ongoing echo for Augusta's prowess as a military school with high academic standards."

Enclosed with this issue is an envelope that can be used to make contributions to the VMI Scholarship Fund, as well as to the AMA Legacy Scholarship Fund, and to the operating fund, which supports *The Bayonet*.



### Harrow School songs provoke memories of our days at Augusta

Sir Winston Churchill's grand-daughter, Celia Sandys, has wriiten a book about her grandfather's early life: The Young Churchill. Churchill was sent off to the Harrow School when he was 14-years-old.

A song sung by all the "new boys" went:

Five hundred faces,

and all so strange! Life in front of me -

and home behind.

Tossed on an ocean of sea and change...

In later years, Harrow boys would sing:

Forty years on, when afar and asunder

Parted are those who are singing today,

When you look back and forgetfully wonder

What you were like in your work and your play,

Then, it may be, there will often come o'er you,

Glimpses of notes like the catch of a song -

Visions of boyhood shall float them before you.

Echoes of dream-land shall bear them along...

## Old Stone Church: 257 years of service

AMA cadets who crossed Lily Valley each Sunday and climbed the hill to the Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church likely gave little thought to the history of the sanctuary, but they were in fact attending the oldest Presbyterian house of worship in all of Virginia.

The church was established in 1740 and the solid, stone building where AMA cadets worshipped was completed in 1749. A young minister named John Craig had accepted the call to "the people of the Shenandoah and South River," later, Augusta County, and arrived in the Shenandoah Valley 26 years before the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed...

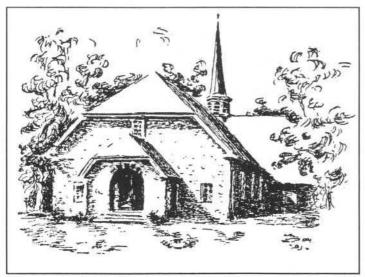
#### A wilderness

Craig was from Ireland, and entered this country through Philadelphia following the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians who came to America seeking religious and civil freedom. Arriving in Augusta County, he described it as "wilderness, without a place of worship..." Craig oversaw the building of the stone structure, not only as a place of worship, but as a fort in case of Indian attack. Although the building never actually was attacked, the small congregation frequently fled to the "Old Stone Church" for protection when the alarm sounded that the Indians were on the warpath.

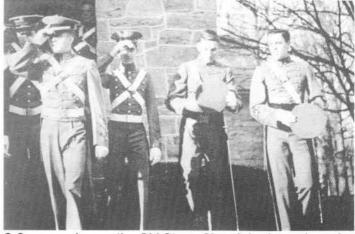
One of the specific requests the parishioners made of their new pastor was provision for the education of the young men in the church. So, Craig started a school in the grove where the church was built. Professor Charles Roller, AMA's founder, may have attended this school, (which some called the "Old Fort Academy") in the mid-1800's, many years after Craig's death. John Craig's school was typical of most church-affiliated schools in Virginia's early educational history.

#### Remodeled to accommodate Corps

The original church constitutes most of the nave of the present sanctuary. It was remodeled before the Civil War. and the growth of the AMA Corps of Cadets made an even larger building necessary in 1921. Transepts were artistically added to the original church changing it into its



Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church, Fort Defiance



C Company leaves the Old Stone Church in the early spring of 1950. Left to right, John Core, '51, ; Jack Russell, '50, 1st Lieutenant; and Bill Hill, '50, Captain of Charlie Company.

present structure - the form of a cross. It was also in 1921 that the steeple was added. In 1974 the Augusta Stone Church was added to both the Virginia and the National Landmarks Registers.

The Roller and now the Livick families have been active in the church for many generations. Colonel Tom and General Charles Roller were elders, and today, Mal and Linda Moorman Roller Livick are elders as are son Mal. Jr. and daughter Lee.

## Seeking photos, video of AMA

Photographs, movies and videos made while AMA was still in operation are being sought to prepare the salute to the Rollers and Livicks at the 1997 annual reunion.

All photos, videos, and movies will be copied and the originals returned to the owners. Those who may have any such items that will help tell the history of the school, or show Colonel Tom Roller, General Charles Roller, Jr., or Colonel Mal and Linda Livick are urged to make such material available.

A video presentation covering the history of Augusta will be premiered May 3 at the Saturday night banquet during the AMA Alumni Annual Reunion. It is anticipated that copies of the video will be offered to alumni after that date.

All such material should be sent by March 15, 1997 to: Bob Bradford, 1325 Virginia Street, Danville, CA 94526-1241. Please carefully label items being sent - include your name and address, and at least an approximate date when the photo, movie, or video was made,

Without the help of alumni and friends of Augusta, we will not be able to complete this task by May. Please today - search for your old movies - your videos - your photos - and mail them in. Everything will be returned to you just as you sent it. Please do not send copies of videos or movies as this will degrade considerably the quality of the final presentation. Send the original, and you will have it returned. You may want to make a copy for yourself, but please send us the original! Thank you.

## AMA alumni send much appreciated contributions

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